

U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo American Citizen Services Office Ave. Monterrey 141 Poniente Ph: (662) 289-3500, ext. 3595/3522/3417 E-mail hermoACS@state.gov

Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico September 17, 2013

This emergency message is being issued to alert U.S. citizens residing and traveling in Sinaloa, Mexico that Tropical Storm Manuel has increased in strength and is expected to continue to bring heavy rain and flooding to southern Sinaloa until Thursday morning, Sept 19. Because of this, local authorities in Mazatlan decided Tuesday evening, September 17 to increase the alert level to 'Yellow' from 'Green,' and have opened storm shelters in Mazatlan.

The shelter located at Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa (School of Accounting) has English and French translators on duty.

Heavy tides are currently breaching the seawall along the Malecon, so avoid this area if possible. The local government states that there is a high likelihood of mudslides and bridges collapsing on the Mazatlan-Durango highway, and they advise travelers to avoid traveling on that road.

Flooding is expected in Colonia Lopez Mateos, Jacarandas and areas surrounding arroyuelo del El Infiernillo and Laguna del Camaron with overflow from Rio Presidio in Villa Union and the arroyuelo de los Jabalies.

CFE will shut down electric services in many areas of Mazatlan at 2:00am, September 18 in order to prevent possible fire hazards.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and U.S. Consulate General Hermosillo will continue to monitor Tropical Storm Manuel's track, and will issue updated messages as necessary. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all time (i.e. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that U.S. citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found on our "<u>Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go</u>" webpage, and on the "<u>Natural Disasters</u>" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs website. Updated information on travel in Mexico may be obtained from the

Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens residing and traveling abroad should review the Department's Worldwide Caution and other travel information when making decisions concerning their travel plans and activities while abroad. U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the embassy/consulates to contact them in case of emergency.